

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

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1. (Three-times amended) A method for the treatment of a T cell-mediated or T cell-dependent autoimmune disease in a human exhibiting an autoimmune response associated with said autoimmune disease comprising orally or enterally administering to said human at least one [member] antigen selected from the group consisting of an autoantigen specific for said autoimmune disease, and an autoimmune response-suppressive fragment of said autoantigen, in an amount effective to [treat] suppress said autoimmune response associated with said autoimmune disease, said suppression comprising elicitation of suppressor T cells specific to said administered antigen.

2. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of myasthenia gravis, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes mellitus, systemic lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, autoimmune hemolytic anemia and autoimmune thyroiditis.

Claims 3-8 have been previously cancelled.

9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment suppresses the symptoms of said autoimmune diseases in said human.

Claim 10 has been previously cancelled.

11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein said autoantigen is

administered orally.

12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein said autoantigen is administered enterally.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein said autoimmune disease is multiple sclerosis.

Claim 14 has been previously cancelled.

15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13 wherein said autoantigen is myelin basic protein (MBP), or a biologically active fragment of MBP, wherein said biological activity is the ability to suppress or eliminate T cell mediated or T cell dependent autoimmune response.

16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 15 wherein said biologically active fragment of MBP is a non-encephalitogenic fragment of MBP.

17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 16 wherein said non-encephalitogenic fragment of MBP comprises amino acids 1-37 of MBP, or an orally immunosuppressive portion thereof.

18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 17 wherein biologically active portion of MBP comprises the region between amino acids 5 and 20.

Claim 19 has been previously canceled.

20. (Twice Amended) A method of treating a T cell-mediated or T cell-dependent autoimmune disease in a human exhibiting an autoimmune response